

volunteered with our local Friends of Nevada County Military for many years, serving on its board and helping to pack monthly care packages for local service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2006, she helped found the Sierra Nevada Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America and served as the organization's first president that same year.

It has been a great pleasure to work with Sue. I thank her for being someone I can always rely on and call for advice. Sue and her husband, Bruce, have been married 48 years, live in Alta Sierra and have 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. In her "other" life, she loves to travel, hike the Sierra, mountain bike, and loves being with her family and friends. I wish Sue the best in her retirement, and I will always appreciate our talks. I thank Sue for her service to the people of Nevada County, she will be missed greatly.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR, JACK E. FERNÁNDEZ

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and contributions of Jack Eugene Fernandez, a Tampa native and true renaissance man, who passed away on July 31, 2022 at the age of 92.

Jack was born and raised in Tampa by his parents, Jacinto Fernández and Matilda Fernández-Vila, along with his sister Anita Fernández DeMesa. He spent much of his childhood exploring and playing around Downtown Tampa where his father owned a shoe repair shop. It was in his father's store that Jack would eventually meet his beloved wife, Sylvia.

Jack graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1947. From there, he went to the University of Florida and—all before the age of 24—earned his Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees in Organic Chemistry. Jack was later drafted by the Army and stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he worked for the civilian Operations Research Office. Following his military service, Jack turned to academia. He moved to Durham, North Carolina to pursue a teaching opportunity as well as a Damon Ruyon Grant to conduct cancer research at Duke University. He then worked as a research chemist at the Eastman Kodak company in Kingsport, Tennessee before deciding to move back to his hometown of Tampa with Sylvia and their 3 sons.

Jack and his family returned to Tampa in 1960 when instruction first began at the newly established University of South Florida. He worked as a chemistry professor with the USF charter faculty and sponsored over 20 graduate students, published over 50 research articles in peer reviewed chemical journals and wrote 5 chemistry textbooks throughout his tenure. He even served abroad as a Fulbright Scholar in Madrid, Spain and Bogota, Colombia. Over the course of his career with the University, Jack received 5 teaching awards, including the All University Teacher of the Year Award.

Following his retirement from USF in 1995, Jack turned to his next career as a writer.

Taking inspiration from his own experiences and the stories he heard growing up, Jack wrote Tampa-based novels, short stories and poems as well as columns for *La Gaceta*, *Cigar City Magazine* and the *Tampa Tribune*. His most acclaimed work was his novel, *Café Con Leche*, which tells the story of the multi-racial, multi-cultural community within Tampa's historic Ybor City during the early 19th century.

Above all else, Jack loved his family. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Sylvia, and his 3 sons and their wives: Jack and Anne, Albert and Nancy, and Rudy and Meg. He is also survived by his 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Jack Eugene Fernández for his lifelong commitment to service above self. As a veteran, scientist, teacher, writer and family man, Jack touched the lives of so many. All in our Tampa Bay community are eternally grateful for the legacy he leaves behind and will continue to cherish his wonderful contributions to our home.

HONORING SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF OZZIE KNEZOVICH

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my longtime friend, Spokane Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich. At the end of December, Ozzie will retire from public service after serving more than 29 years in law enforcement, including 16 years as Spokane County Sheriff.

Sheriff Knezovich began this law enforcement career as a patrol officer for the City of Olympia, WA, and the City of Rock Springs, WY, before joining the force in Spokane. Here, he rose through the ranks serving first as a Field Training Officer, then as a Property Crimes Detective, Sex Crimes Detective, SWAT Team Operator, SWAT Team Supervisor, Patrol Supervisor, and later as a Training Supervisor, where he remained until he was elected as the top law enforcement officer of Spokane County in 2006.

Sheriff Knezovich has faithfully served the people of Spokane County as Sheriff for the last 16 years, during which he earned the trust and confidence of our entire community. In his role as Sheriff, Ozzie oversees a vast law enforcement force of officers, who under his direction, protect and serve nearly 546,040 Spokane County residents across more than 1,781 square miles.

A devoted public servant dedicated to reaching out to the community and Spokane County youth, Sheriff Knezovich serves on several outreach boards including the United Way, Daybreak Youth Services, the Salvation Army, Frontier Behavioral Health, the Arc of Spokane, Boy Scouts of America, Community Service Team. He is also the Founding Board Member for the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force.

Sheriff Knezovich is a true public servant who is always eager to make a difference. His long-held goal has been to provide effective and efficient law enforcement service while

building strong and trusting relationships within the community. He has certainly achieved that goal and so much more. Sheriff Knezovich's dedication to and impact in Spokane County is seen far beyond the walls of the Sheriff's Department, as he has proven himself to be a catalyst in improving the lives of Spokane County citizens.

Having first been elected in 2004 myself, I've had the honor of working with Sheriff Knezovich throughout his entire career. I've enjoyed the many projects we collaborated on to make Eastern Washington a safer place to live, work, and raise a family. He's been a tremendous partner, and he will be dearly missed by all those who had the pleasure of working with him.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich has dedicated his entire adult life to public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication and selflessness displayed by Sheriff Knezovich for nearly three decades. While Sheriff Knezovich is deserving of far greater accolades from a grateful public, the United States House of Representatives extends our sincere appreciation and best wishes for a retirement of joy and peace.

CELEBRATING 240 YEARS OF THE MINGO CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the congregation of The Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church for 240 years of service to God and their community in southwestern Pennsylvania.

As early as 1774, Scotch-Irish settlers of America's first western frontier gathered at the site of Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church. Records show that the first official Christian worship services took place in 1782 and have continued uninterrupted to this day. The original meeting house was used by The Mingo Creek Society, a group of dissidents involved in the protest against the federal whiskey excise tax beginning in 1794. The Mingo Creek log structure and the surrounding grounds served as "the cradle of the Whisky Rebellion." There, militia leaders met and plotted the first revolt to test our young republic. Major James McFarlane, a veteran of the American Revolution, was one of the few killed in the uprising and is among the rebel figures buried in the Mingo Cemetery.

The Church's first permanent pastor, Dr. Samuel Ralston, arrived as an Irish missionary in 1796 and served until 1837. His legacy was far-reaching, as his descendants remained active in the Mingo Creek Church through the 1960s. Throughout this time, the Church underwent several changes. Mingo Creek began its Mission and community outwork in 1841, which are still critical ventures. Curved walls were added in 1903, while a manse and Christian education building were built in 1924 and 1958, respectively. These changes allowed the Church to welcome more inside its walls, including traveling dignitaries. Among those was President Harry S. Truman, who delivered a speech at the Church's early 19th-century wooden pulpit.